

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 OPR-02

OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 SAM-01 /065 W

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R 141120Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9915

INFO USIA WASHDC

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USIA PASS VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN CENSORSHIP TIGHTENS

1. A QUANTUM JUMP IN THE TIGHTENING OF CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS AFFECTING BOTH THE INDIAN PRESS AND FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TOOK PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. AT ABOUT 1400 IST, JULY UNI RAN THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY TO ITS SUBSCRIBERS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE FOLLOWING FRESH GUIDELINES WERE ORALLY COMMUNICATED TO US BY THE CENSOR'S OFFICE LAST NIGHT. THESE ARE FOR YOUR INFORMATION, AND SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED:

NO STORY RELATING TO THE FOLLOWING THREE CASES TO BE ISSUED:

1. FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENT SESSION BUSINESS.
  2. PRIME MINISTER'S ELECTION CASE IN SUPREME COURT, AND
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3. ANY STATEMENT BY ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF BANNED PARTIES. END QUOTE.

3. WITH THE BRIEF FORMAL OPENING OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ELECTION CASE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14 AND THE PARLIAMENT SCHEDULED TO MEET NEXT WEEK, NO INDIAN NEWSPAPER SEEN IN NEW DELHI CARRIED A WORD ON EITHER OF THESE HISTORIC EVENTS IN EITHER THEIR SUNDAY OR MONDAY EDITIONS. PTI MOVED A SUPREME COURT SCENE-SETTING STORY ON SATURDAY AND KILLED IT A FEW HOURS LATER.

4. MYRON BELKIND, AP (ALSO PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION) REPORTS GOI CHIEF CENSOR (NOW HARRY D'PENHA) INDICATED GOI HAS SUDDENLY BECOME AWARE OF FLAGRANT, WIDESPREAD VIOLATIONS OF CENSORSHIP BY THE FOREIGN PRESS AND WILL INITIATE A CRACK-DOWN. ONE INDIAN JOURNALIST (R. RAMANUJAM, NEWSWEEK) HAS TOLD US THE CURRENT OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE GOI IS TO RID ITSELF OF ALL FOREIGN NEWSMEN AND GET FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTAYON IN HANDS OF INDIANS WITH WHOM THEY CAN EXERT EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

5. WORD-OF-MOUTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS WAS SLOW IN GETTING TO MANY OF THE NOW 70-PLUS FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN DELHI. AS A RESULT BOTH CBS AND NBC REPRESENTATIVES CAUGHT UNAWARES, CAME TO SHOUTING CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE CENSORS WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO CLEAR THEIR UNDEVELOPED FOOTAGE WITH THE CENSOR ON SATURDAY NIGHT. REPORTEDLY, THIS FOOTAGE MERELY SHOWED MRS. GANDHI LEAVING HER RESIDENCE. THE NBC FILM WAS AT FIRST CONFISCATED, BUT LATER RETURNED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT IT WAS NOT CLEARED FOR EXPORT AND THAT NO FOREIGN NEWS ORGANIZATION HAS THE RIGHT TO PHOTOGRAPH HER. COMMENT: UNLESS THE GOI SOMEHOW EASES THESE NEW REGULATIONS, THE SUPREME COURT HEARINGS AND PARLIAMENT SESSIONS WILL, PRESUMABLY, BE CARRIED IN INDIAN NEWS MEDIA VIA GOI HANDOUTS ONLY, IF AT ALL. FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, ALREADY CHAFFING UNDER EXISTING HEAVY CENSORSHIP WRAPS, SUDDENLY SEE THEMSELVES CUT OFF FROM LEGALLY FILING ANYTHING ON THE MOST IMPORTANT STORIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPING HERE NOW. EXTRA-LEGAL FILING ATTEMPTS INCLUDING THE SMUGGLING OUT OF FILM AND COPY CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE ALONG WITH THE INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF EXPULSIONS OR ARRESTS. SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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